

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAPLES 994

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: NAPLES AND ITS POLITICS

1. IN A SPLIT VOTE YESTERDAY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS STOPPED PROFESSOR GALASSO FROM FORMING A GIUNTA TO RUN THE CITY OF NAPLES. IRONICALLY, IT IS THE PSDI THAT ORIGINALLY PROPOSED HIM AS THE NEW MAYOR. AT THAT TIME A MAJORITY OR 41 OUT OF 80 CITY COUNCILORS VOTED IN HIS FAVOR (THE 24 DC VOTED SCHEDA BIANCA AND 15 THE MSI AGAINST).
2. UNDERSTANDABLY PROFESSOR GALASSO IS VERY BITTER ABOUT YESTERDAY'S PSDI'S ABOUT FACE. THE PRESS RELEASE HE PERSONALLY WROTE ACCUSES THE PSDI OF BLINDLY REFUSING TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF NAPLES. GALASSO ALSO ACCUSES THE DC OF SABOTAGING HIS EFFORTS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE MANDATE. NOTEWORTHY IS THE FACT THAT THE PSDI PULLED THE RUG FROM UNDER GALASSO AT THE VERY LAST

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MOMENT NOTWITHSTANDING A MESSAGE FROM PARTY PRESIDENT SARAGAT NOTING GALASSO'S EXCEPTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AS WELL AS THE UNUSUAL PROBLEMS FACED BY THE CITY WHICH REQUIRE URGENT ATTENTION.

3. THE NEW LIKELY ALTERNATIVES ARE: (A) ELECTION OF A LEFTIST MINORITY GIUNTA FORMED BY PCI-PSI AND PDUP (33 VOTES OUT OF 80) WHICH WOULD MOST PROBABLY SURVIVE ONLY UNTIL THE NEXT BUDGET IS CONSIDERED (MARCH 1976). (B) APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSIONER PENDING NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS. OF THE TWO LIKELY ALTERNATIVES, I
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BELIEVE (A) WILL BE ADOPTED. UNDER THIS ALTERNATIVE A PREDOMINANTLY COMMUNIST GIUNTA WOULD TAKE OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF NAPLES FOR

APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS. ITS SUCCESS OR FAILURE WOULD DEPEND IN
LARGE MEASURE ON THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION FROM GOVT MINISTRIES AND
THE RANK-AND-FILE BUREAUCRACY IN MAKING FUNDS AVAILABLE TO
IMPLEMENT PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS. SINCE NO COOPERATION IS EXPECTED AND
TENURE IS OF SUCH SHORT DURATION, THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS ARE
NOT PARTICULARLY EAGER TO TAKE OVER THE REINS OF THE CITY.
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